

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, from line 6 through line 10, with the following paragraph:

-- This application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/315,480, entitled "ADHESIVE N,O-CARBOXYMETHYLCHITOSAN COATINGS WHICH INHIBIT ATTACHMENT OF SUBSTRATE-DEPENDENT CELLS AND PROTEINS," filed May 20, 1999, now United States Patent No. 6,645,947 B1, issued November 11, 2003, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at beginning at page 5, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

NOCC is a derivative of chitin, which is found in the shells of crustaceans and many insects. Chitin and its derivatives are normally biocompatible, naturally resorbed by the body, and have previously been suggested for use for sustained drug release, bone induction and hemostasis (Chandy and Sharma, *Biomat. Art. Cells & Immob. Biotech.* 19:745-760 (1991); Klokkevold, P. *et al.*, *J. Oral Maxillofac. Sur.* 50:41-45 (1992)). Due to its prevalence, chitin may be obtained relatively cheaply, largely from waste products. One of the most useful of the chitin derivatives is NOCC. As disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,619,995, issued to Hayes, NOCC has carboxymethyl substituents on some of both the amino and primary hydroxyl sites of the glucosamine units of the chitosan structure. NOCC may be used in an uncrosslinked form as a solution or may be cross-linked or complexed into a stable gel. Because of its advantageous physical properties, and its relative low cost, NOCC presents advantageous properties for use in site localized delivery systems.

Please replace the paragraph at beginning at page 7, line 37 with the following amended paragraph:

The bioadhesive strength of several adherent NOCCs was compared to that of polycarbophil, a cross-linked acrylic acid polymer available from B.F. Goodrich. As more fully described in Example 1, solutions of low and high viscosity NOCC were prepared, as well as hydrogels of high viscosity NOCC. The bioadhesive was applied to stomach and cecal tissue

samples and the bioadhesive strength was measured according to a modified version of the procedure disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,615,697, ~~the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference~~. The transfer of polymer to both tissue surfaces indicated that the adhesive force of the polymer exceeded the cohesive force. A summary of results appears in Tables 1 and 2, and Figure 2. In preferred embodiments, the bioadhesive strength of adhesive NOCC coatings of the invention is desirably greater than at least about 1000 dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>, more preferably greater than at least about 2000 dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>, and most preferably greater than at least about 3000 dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>.